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RESHAPING ROCHESTER

PLANNING FOR THE PUBLIC REALM • SUSTAINABLE URBANISM

LOUIS S. &
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FOUNDATION



ROBERT FISHMAN

Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
Author: *Bourgeois Utopias: The Rise and Fall of Suburbia*



Robert Fishman is one of the country's most insightful historians and is a nationally recognized expert in urban history, policy, and planning. Fishman reveals to us an upcoming reformation of the unsustainable built environment that surrounds us today, which he calls "The Fifth Migration."

In the first migration, pioneers settled the continent. In the second migration, people surged into factory towns from farms during the Industrial Revolution.

The third migration created metropolitan centers out of these factory towns. In the fourth there was a mass flood out of metropolitan centers into ever-sprawling, decentralized suburbs. The "Fifth Migration" is slowly inching upon us with inevitability: reurbanism.

Reurbanism calls for the recovery of residential districts, recreational opportunities, and an economy of highly-skilled, flexible, small-scale enterprises to maximize our quality of life. High gas prices and climate change are making distances between shopping centers, work, and home impractical and unsustainable. Prevalent downtowns are necessary to support regional economic engines, community cooperation, and municipal coordination.

In 1802, Thomas Jefferson and Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin sought to create a democratic society with planned settlement through the "Gallatin Plan." In 1908, Theodore Roosevelt implemented conservation and transportation initiatives. We have now entered a new century where the 1908 planning molds have been exhausted to the point of being counter-productive. Robert Fishman urges America to plan for the inevitable "Fifth Migration." If properly designed, reurbanism has the ability to calm historical tensions between rich and poor, black and white, immigrant and American, among all other myriad populations, and recreate the city as an economic nexus as well as a place for social synthesis and cultural vibrancy. Abandoned buildings and sparse sidewalks only wait to be filled.

for more
information visit
www.rrcdc.org

Downtown United Presbyterian Church • 121 N. Fitzhugh St.
Monday March 16 • 7-9 PM



RRCDC
ROCHESTER REGIONAL
COMMUNITY DESIGN CENTER



DOWNTOWN UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

121 N. Fitzhugh Street
Rochester, New York 14614

The Downtown United Presbyterian Church is the third structure the same plot of land has seen since 1828. In 1860-62 architect A.J. Warner enlarged the building that became the Brick Presbyterian Church. In 1892-93 it was enlarged and rebuilt again, and a

great fire in 1903 destroyed everything but the walls, the iron columns supporting the towers and balcony, and the tessellated marble floor in the main sanctuary.

Architect Foster Warner redesigned the building, giving it the conservative Romanesque style embodied by the curved arches adorning all windows and doorways. Two Italianate towers frame the main entrance, one acting as a belfry. The structure is home to a 3500 pound bell casted in Troy, New York in 1904. Charles Allen Snell designed the interior with an Elizabethan flair. Soffits connect each window creating a sense of strength which visually unites one side with the other. Many of the windows survived the fire and date back to 1894. They are made with Tiffany glass with refracting powers capable of iridescent effects.

Within its architecturally significant walls, the Downtown United Presbyterian Church has housed many social justice issues. In 1970, students who were in trial for public opposition to the Vietnam War were given space within the structure to regularly meet. Since 1974, the congregation has firmly stood with the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans-gender community, creating a safe-haven within the structure.